



(U) UN Peacekeeping in Sub-Saharan Africa: A Growth Industry

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(U) UN peacekeeping operations in Sub-Saharan Africa consume a vast amount of resources, both in terms of personnel and funding, and the number of operations far exceeds those in other regions. While UN peacekeeping in Sub-Saharan Africa has had mixed success, the missions themselves are inevitable because seeking a peaceful resolution to crises and improving human rights are precisely why the UN was created. With four UN peacekeeping missions already underway in Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ethiopia/Eritrea, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the UN warned member states in December 2003 to be prepared to provide troops for additional operations in Africa in 2004.

(U) Already a mission in Cote d'Ivoire has been approved and missions in Burundi, and Sudan are being considered. In addition, Undersecretary General for Peacekeeping Operations Jean-Marie Guehenno has noted that, "we may need substantial numbers of military personnel...to ensure a robust and force-protected posture in the conduct of their operations."

(U) For the United States, UN peacekeeping operations in Africa claim a significant amount of policymaker time and a sizeable amount of US funds. The four UN peacekeeping missions underway in Sub-Saharan Africa have a combined annual budget of \$1.9 billion-almost twice as much as the cost of all other peacekeeping missions combined. The United States pays approximately 27% of this bill-about \$500 million. UN peacekeeping missions in Sub-Saharan Africa are authorized to have more than 50,000 military and civilian personnel-five times more than the number in any other region.

(U) The three new missions would put the cost of UN peacekeeping in Sub-Saharan Africa over the \$2 billion mark, with the United States probably picking up its 27 percent of the tab. Moreover, donor fatigue from troop contributing nations is becoming more prevalent as many of the current UN missions, both in Africa and elsewhere, still are not at full strength. The United States therefore may face increased pressure in 2004 to contribute troops to at least one of the proposed UN peacekeeping missions. Sudan is the most likely candidate, given the significant US involvement in getting the warring parties to sign a peace accord.

(S) Assistant Secretary of State, International Organizations, Kim Holmes asserted during a November 2003 visit to NSA that the Security Council spends more than 50 percent of its time on African issues. This is particularly noteworthy when weighed against such critical issues as Iraq and Afghanistan, which presumably consumed most of the Council's remaining time in 2003.

(S) Moreover, the peacekeeping proposals for the region that are brought before the Security Council have significance for some of the Permanent Five (P-5) members (US, UK, China, Russia, France) beyond the costs of such missions and the impact on the region. The historic colonial ties between the UK and Africa and France and Africa give those two P-5 members more of a stake in efforts to establish peacekeeping operations. China, for its part, is seeking to carve out a role as "leader of the developing world" which, coupled with its growing economic-especially oil-investments in Sub-Saharan Africa, could lead this P-5 member to support peacekeeping missions as a means of enhancing its stature with developing leaders in general and African leaders in particular.

(U//FOUO) Crises in Africa, while not generally in the media spotlight, still claim a significant portion of both US Government and United Nations time and resources. Future UN peacekeeping operations in Sub-Saharan Africa are inevitable and the United States probably will face

increased pressure to provide troops as well as funding in the near future.

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